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Page 4 File

QUESTION: Mr. President, I notice that you don't put any dollar figure on the amount of the loans that you would be offering. I wonder if you could supply us with a figure and, also, why were loans necessary rather than loan guarantees?

THE PRESIDENT: The amount in the proposed legislation, which is a maximum ceiling, not necessarily would they have to go up to the ceiling, but the figure is $2 billion 300 million per year, all of it to be repaid at the end of each fiscal year.

The reason we made it a loan rather than a loan guarantee is very simple. It is a much cleaner transaction between the Federal Government and the State and/or the city. If you have a loan guarantee, you involve other parties, and we think it is much better, we have better control over it if we make it a direct loan from the Federal Government.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in view of recent revelations, are you fully satisfied that you are aware of everything that the CIA does since you became President, and do you accept full responsibility?

THE PRESIDENT: Miss Thomas, I certainly hope that I am fully aware of everything the CIA is doing. I can assure you that if I am not fully informed, I will welcome any information that people may have that I don't know about, but I have specifically asked for all information that I think I need concerning matters of the CIA.

QUESTION: Can you say what steps you are taking to guarantee that the American people will never again learn that a Federal agency plotted on the life of a foreign leader or tried to defame a domestic leader like Martin Luther King?

THE PRESIDENT: I have issued specific instructions to the U.S. intelligence agencies that under no circumstances should any agency in this Government, while I am President, participate in or plan for any assassination of a foreign leader.

Equally emphatic instructions have gone to any domestic agency of the Federal Government and/or the CIA, or intelligence agencies, that they should not violate the law involving the right of privacy of any individual in the United States.

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QUESTION: Mr. President, is it still your intention, sir, to veto any tax cut package that Congress might pass if it does not conform precisely with what you proposed a few weeks ago?

THE PRESIDENT: I intend to veto any tax cut measure that does not couple with it a comparable reduction in the growth of Federal spending.

QUESTION: Well, sir, that implies you might be flexible on the precise numbers, is that correct, so long as there is a balance?

THE PRESIDENT: I, of course, proposed a $28 billion tax cut, coupled with a $28 billion reduction in Federal spending. I think that is the right level in both cases.

The Congress, I hope, will accept it.

QUESTION: A follow-up question, if I could, Mr. President, to the earlier statement on the Central Intelligence Agency. As you know, there is a grey area in which the CIA might take an action which could eventually lead to danger or assassination of a political leader. Now, in your first news conference you indicated that you supported such covert activities, particularly in the case of Chile. Do you still support those activities and, if so, what kind of philosophy should the Constitutional Democracy of America taken into the situation?

THE PRESIDENT: I repeat, under this Administration, no agency of the Federal Government will plan or participate in any assassination plot of a foreign leader.

The United States, however, in many cases for its own protection, its own national security, must undertake, foreign covert operations but I am not going to discuss the details of them.

QUESTION: Will you allow the country to involve itself in situations which could potentially be dangerous to other leaders?

THE PRESIDENT: The people in the intelligence agencies know what my instructions are. If they violate them, proper action will be taken.

QUESTION: Mr. President, in Angola the Soviets are reported to be heavily involved. Do you find this to be consistent with your understanding of detente?

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